

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 8 have been amended by defining the push rod to be rigid.

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7 have been amended by defining the sliding shaft to be rigid.

Claim 6 has been amended by defining the spring-loaded push button pin to be rigid.

Claim 9 has been amended by defining the socket retention and release mechanism to be positive.

Each of the above-amended claims define a mechanism which provides positive retention and release of a socket or fitting. That is, the socket or fitting cannot be removed manually from the post or pin holding it without pressing down the rigid push rod, the rigid sliding shaft, or the spring-loaded rigid pushbutton pin, respectively.

This is important when using a tool such as a nut runner or nut setter because it prevents a socket or fitting from inadvertently disengaging from the tool. See applicants' specification, paragraph 0001.

The primary prior art relied on by the Examiner, Smyers, Jr., et al., does not show or remotely suggest that positive retention. In fact, Smyers, Jr., et al., teaches away from Applicants' invention, Smyers, Jr., et al., shows an arrangement which may look similar at first glance. However, in all Smyers, Jr., et al., embodiments, including discussions in the Summary of the Invention, the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment and the Claims, Smyers, Jr., et al., relies on resilient means (i.e., a flexible spring) which engage the detent member in order to hold the socket on the stud. See col. 1, lines 41-45 and lines 57-61. See also col. 3, lines 19-22.

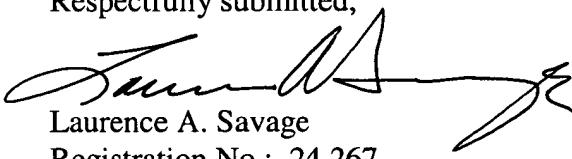
Smyers, Jr., et al., utilizes resilient means because he desires to be able to manually remove the socket without depressing pushbutton 18 [emphasis added]. See col. 3, lines 55-61 and col. 4, lines 45-47. See also Claim 1, col. 4, lines 65-67 and Claim 10, col. 6, lines 26-29. It is also obvious that if a socket can be removed manually as in Smyers, Jr., et al., it can also be inadvertently disengaged while using the socket wrench in tight spaces. Thus, it is obvious that Smyers, Jr., et al., does not provide a positive retention and release mechanism.

By using a rigid rod, shaft or pin as defined in Applicants' claims, a positive retention and release mechanism is provided, and thereby inadvertent disengagement is obviated.

Accordingly, since it has been shown that Smyers, Jr., et al., does not anticipate claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 or 9, it is believed that Smyers, Jr., et al., in view of Herman, et al., does not make obvious the subject matter of claims 3 or 7, and that Smyers, Jr., et al., in view of Rebold and in further view of Harper does not make obvious the combination set forth in claim 8.

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request notice of allowance of claims 1-9. In the event the Examiner finds any informalities requiring correction, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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